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DAWLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

- for -

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DAWLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances and administration and the Vital Statistics of the district for the year ending December 31st 1925.

The Memorandum of the Ministry of Health directs that a "Survey" Report should be prepared dealing with: (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health: (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area: (c) Any further action of importance in the organization and development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres).	-	-	2755
Population (Census, 1921).	-	-	7450
" estimated 1925.	-	-	7545
Number of inhabited houses (1921).	-	-	1693
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921).	-	-	1703
Assessable Value.	-	-	£12,600
Sum represented by a penny rate.	-	-	£54

The district lies at a considerable elevation upon the Shropshire Coalfield and table-land of which it forms one of the highest parts. Its surface falls irregularly from North and North-west to south and south-east and from 670 O.D. to approximately 400 O.D. The surface drainage is good owing to the steep fall of this part of the northern watershed of the Severn. The geological formation is carboniferous, the district being for the most part on the Coal measures, with small exposure of the Millstone Grit in the south-western part.

Thirty to forty years ago it was a busy coal and iron mining district with large ironworks. Coal mines long out of work and dismantled ironworks are common features. Most of the workmen's dwellings were erected during this period of prosperity.

The industries at present are a large modern engineering works, and a sanitary pipe works, with a few small coal pits.

Agriculture also absorbs a certain amount of labour, but a large percentage of the houses are occupied by workers, at the Collieries and Ironworks in the neighbouring districts.

The district is semi-rural in character, the houses being scattered and averaging between one and two to the acre. A main-road passes through the centre of the town and along this and the district roads radiating from it continuous lengths of houses have been erected with isolated groups between the pit mounds.

The district is a healthy one, being high, dry and wind-swept and with good surface drainage.





## VITAL STATISTICS.

The table below shows the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for the period under review 1920 - 1924 inclusive.

	<u>Birth-rate</u>	<u>Death-rate</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality Rate.</u>
1920	29.4	11.6	78
1921	22.9	12.3	93
1922	24.5	10.6	43
1923	22.2	11.4	41
1924	21.2	12.9	62
	-----	-----	-----
Average of 5 years.	24.0	11.7	63
	-----	-----	-----
1925	20.2	15.6	84

The births during 1925 numbered 153, of which 72 were males and 81 females. Nine were illegitimate, equal to 5.8 per cent. The birth-rate 20.2 is the lowest on record in normal times. The rate for England and Wales for the year was 18.3.

There were 118 deaths registered belonging to the district, which gives a death-rate of 15.6, the average of the previous five years being 11.7 and the rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 12.2.

The causes of death were: Whooping Cough 5, Influenza 3, Encephalitis Lethargica 3, Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 8, Other Tuberculous Diseases 1, Cancer 15, Diabetes 1, Cerebral Haemorrhage 10, Heart Disease 16, Arterio-sclerosis 6, Bronchitis 6, Pneumonia 5, Other respiratory diseases 2, Appendicitis 1, Cirrhosis of Liver 1, Nephritis 3, Congenital Debility and Premature Birth 3, Suicide 1, Other deaths from Violence 8, Other defined diseases 19. Cancer ill-defined 1.

Epidemic disease in the form of Whooping Cough and Influenza were responsible for an increase in the deaths from respiratory diseases besides those directly caused by them.

But the chief increase is in deaths from diseases of the circulation, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Heart Disease and Arterio-sclerosis, to which thirty-two were attributed. They were mostly in elderly persons. Fifty of the total number of deaths were in persons over seventy years of age, sixteen being between eighty and ninety and five over ninety. This is a high percentage in an industrial population and is to some extent due to the industrial depression in the area, and the high cost of food.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Thirteen deaths of infants under twelve months were recorded, the Infantile Mortality Rate being 84 per thousand births. The average of the previous five years was 63 and the rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 75. The causes of death were: Whooping Cough 3, Broncho-pneumonia 2, Prematurity 2, Convulsions 2, Congenital Debility 1, Atelectasis 1, Pemphigus 1, and Marasmus 1.

The epidemic of Whooping Cough was the chief cause of the increase, but the majority of deaths must be classed as preventible.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council:

1. Tuberculosis. Shirlett Sanatorium.  
Prees Heath                   "  
Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.
2. Maternity.       Beds are provided at Shrewsbury and also  
                  at Much Wenlock Hospital.
3. Childrens.       Home for Ailing Babies, Wellington.
4. Fever.           Nil.
5. Smallpox.        Steeraway, Wellington.
6. Other.           Shrewsbury Eye Ear and Throat Hospital.

All the Hospitals are available for patients from the Dawley district. They are all either provided or subsidized by the County Council.

The Local Authority have made arrangements for the admission of Fever cases to the Monkmoor Hospital, belonging to the Shrewsbury and Atcham Joint Board, when beds are available.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children has been made by the County Council with the Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. (a) For Infectious cases, the County ambulance is available.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases, the ambulance maintained by the Wellington Urban Council can be hired.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. Dawley Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at King Street Dawley: accommodation four rooms, provided by the local association.

	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Provided by</u>
Day Nurseries.	Nil.	
School Clinic.	At King Street, Dawley,	County Council
Tuberculosis Dispensary	"   "   "	"       "
V. D.	Shrewsbury.	"       "

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Mr. R. Lewis Price combines the office of Sanitary Inspector with that of Surveyor. He holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers. He is also a member of the Institute of Municipal Engineers. Recently he has been appointed Meat Inspector for the district. A contribution is received to the salary and to that of the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Acts.

### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General. The Dawley Nursing Association provide two nurses, who do general nursing in the area.





(b). For Infectious Diseases, e.g. Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenza, the County Council supply a nurse when epidemics occur in the district, and also for home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Midwives. The Local Authority do not provide any Midwives, but the Dawley Nursing Association maintain two. There are five in practice in the district.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE. Part III of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890 was adopted in 1902.

Byelaws are in force in respect of:- Nuisances, New Buildings, Slaughter-houses, and Common Lodging-houses.

The Byelaws in regard to New Buildings are in the form of the Model Code for Rural Districts, referring specially to drainage and Sanitation. They came into force in 1905.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. The district is supplied with water by the Borough of Wenlock from the Harrington Water Works. From the Madeley Reservoir it is delivered to the Dawley Pumping Station, from where it is forced up to two Reservoirs, which supply the Council's area by gravitation. The larger Reservoir holds 175,000 gallons and serves the district generally, whilst the small one has a capacity of 25,000 gallons and is placed at a higher level for the supply to houses not reached by the former.

Stand-pipes are placed within easy reach of most of the houses, and the water is laid on to about 450. In the last five years connections were made to thirty houses and six in the present year.

About eighty are dependent on wells for their supply being outside the rating distance from a public supply. The Public Health (Water) Act was adopted in 1910 giving power to rate houses under 200 feet of the Stand-pipes.

The consumption during the year for every purpose works out at 6.73 gallons per head per day. The total quantity pumped during the year was 26,190,000 gallons, of which 8,985,000 gallons were sold to outside authorities, viz: Wellington Rural District Council and Oakengates Urban District Council.

The supply has been constant and the quality excellent.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE. The outfall of the main sewers is as a rule into open channels running through agricultural and waste land into streams draining into the Severn. In certain parts of the district scattered groups of houses drain into pits, which are cleansed periodically by the Council's men. At Dark Lane the sewage is pumped daily and distributed on land prepared to receive it and after being filtered percolates to Dark Lane Brook.

The various lengths of sewers are flushed regularly. Seven new lengths of sewer have been laid at Old Park, Dawley Bank, Little Dawley, Church Road, Finger Road and Southall Road to connect with existing sewers. In conjunction with Wellington Rural District Council a scheme for treating the sewage from Dawley Bank in this area



and Lawley Bank in the Wellington Rural District has been undertaken and is nearing completion. A septic tank and filter beds with automatic distributing apparatus has been installed and the effluent will run in over open channel through agricultural land. It will deal with the sewage from approximately 60 houses.

The drains to 49 houses were reconstructed or improved during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The position in regard to this matter at the end of 1925 was:- Water closets 200, Pan Closets 155 and Privies 963. During the year eleven privies were converted to the water carriage system. The method of sewage disposal in existence in the area prevents any large scheme for conversions being put in hand, whilst the absence of sewers in certain districts and the age of many cottages adds to the difficulty.

SCAVENGING. The Council do not undertake the scavenging of house refuse or closets, but they provide a horse and cart free of charge and arrangements are made by the tenants or landlords with the Surveyor, where it is required and they pay for the manual labour. Excrements is disposed of on agricultural land and three tips are provided by the Council for ashes &c., in various parts of the district.

Covered galvanized ash-bins are not common in the district and are not suitable because there is no weekly collection.

The following summary of the work done during the period under review 1920 - 1924 is supplied by Mr. Lewis Price:-

1. The total lengths of new sewers laid	2,200 yards.
2. Total connections to public sewers.	60
3. Privies converted into W.C's.	44
4. Privies converted into Pan-closets.	19
5. New lengths of water-main laid.	14
6. Number of houses connected to water main.	29
7. Improvements in house drainage.	437

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

I append to the Report an account, furnished by Mr. Lewis Price, of the sanitary work for the year. It shows 147 notices served informally and 144 complied with, and includes much valuable work in the improvement of the sanitary condition of the district, more especially in the repair of houses (125), improvements in drainage (49) and in sanitary conveniences (27).

#### HOUSING.

##### 1. General housing conditions in the area:-

There has been during the last five years a continuous improvement in the houses in the area, as a result of the persevering efforts of the Surveyor, but the amount of money spent is naturally limited by the return in the way of increased rent that it is possible to levy, and reconstructions and the costlier repairs are omitted in many cases, where they are very essential. But there is no doubt that the net result of the Surveyor's work is that there are many more houses in good sanitary condition, than





five years ago and that the standard of housing in the district has been much improved.

In regard to the sufficiency of houses to meet the needs of the population, the position has varied very little since my report of 1919.

There was a decrease in the population during the inter-census period 1911 - 1921 of 300, but the amount of overcrowding remains high.

Private enterprise erected seven houses in the five years 1920 - 1924; this is scarcely sufficient to replace the structures passing out of use owing to decay, and the estimate of houses required made in 1919, viz: 100 seems to need no revision.

The Council have recently instructed the Surveyor to get plans out for twelve cottages of three bedroom type.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

a. Total.	-	-	3
b. With State assistance under the Housing Acts 1919, 1923, 1924.	-	-	0

#### I. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection:-

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects.	-	129
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.	-	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state, so dangerous and injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation.	-	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	-	129

#### II. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers.	-	129
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#### III. Action under Statutory Powers. Nil.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a. Milk Supply. There are 36 Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers on the Register and the supply for the district is adequate and as a rule of good quality.

A few of the sheds are unsuitable on account of the defective construction and dirty surroundings. With the additional powers conferred on the Council by the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1915, they should be either greatly improved or removed from the Register.

The analysis and Bacteriological examination is arranged for by the County Council.

No licenses were granted for the sale of milk under special designations by the local authority and no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers has taken place.





(b). Meat. Mr. Lewis Price the Surveyor has been appointed Meat Inspector. Six lots of meat were condemned during the year. Mr. Price is attending a further course of Lectures and Demonstrations at the Abattoir, Shrewsbury. He states that there are 12 Slaughterhouses in the district, that they are visited regularly and that most of the animals slaughtered in the area are inspected before removal from the Slaughterhouses.

The proposed scheme of the provision of a slaughter-house by the Council for the use of cottagers and butchers without suitable premises had to be abandoned owing to want of support.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations have been brought to the notice of the traders, and certain improvements have resulted.

Other Foods. The Bake-houses are 14 in number, they are visited periodically and limewashed regularly.

#### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the years 1920 - 1924 there were 74 cases of Diphtheria notified, two of which ended fatally. There was at no period an epidemic of a severe type of the disease, the cases occurring over many months and the majority being simply carriers notified as a result of bacteriological examination. Systematic swabbing of contacts, both at home and at School was carried out and seemed to be more beneficial in controlling the outbreaks, than removal to an Isolation Hospital.

In the five years there were 44 cases of Scarlet Fever without a death. The majority were of mild type and in very few instances did the disease attack a second member of the household.

The Council have arranged for cases of Infectious Disease to be sent to Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury, when necessary. Two cases of Diphtheria were sent during the period under review.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided by the Council and is in general use.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Diphtheria.	8	0	0
Scarlet Fever.	10	0	0
Encephalitis			
Lethargica	2	0	3
Puerperal Fever.	1	0	0
Pneumonia.	2	0	5

There was no epidemic during the year of either Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

Two cases of Encephalitis Lethargica were notified and both were fatal. There was in addition a fatal case transferred to the district.



The following specimens were sent to the Bacteriological Laboratory, Birmingham University for examination.

Throat swabs:	44	Diph. Bac. present	15	absent	29.
Sputum:	15	Tub. Bac. present	4	absent	11.
Blood	1	Widal negative.			
Cerebro-spinal Fluid.	2				
	----				
Total	62				
	----				

# TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY during 1925.

Age Period.	<u>New cases.</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0								
1								
5	1		2					
10	1	1	3	2				1
15		3		1				
20				1				
25					1	1		
35		1			3	2		
45						1		
55		1						
65								
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	2	6	5	4	4	4	0	1
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in respect of tuberculous employees in the milk trade, or under the Public Health Act 1925, Section 62, for the compulsory removal to Hospital of Tuberculous persons.

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the year was 1.0 per thousand and of Non-pulmonary .01.

The number of notifications of Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis during the years 1920 - 1924 was:

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>
Pulmonary	14	13	13	14	16	8
Non-Pulmonary.	4	2	2	7	11	9

The death-rates for the same period were:

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>average</u>
Pulmonary.	.5	.4	.0	1.0	1.1	.6
Non-Pulmonary.	.1	.2	.1	.4	.4	.1

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your onedient Servant,  
ALFRED E. WHITE.

August 14th 1926.





The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year ending 31st December, 1925, in the Dawley Urban Sanitary District.

- a Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey. 195
- a Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.

Number of legal notices sent.	-	-	
Number of informal notices sent	-	-	147
Number of such notices complied with.	-	-	144
Number of letters written.	-	-	442

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:-

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease.	-	-	27
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply.	-	-	-
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended.	-	-	49
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction.	-	-	27
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition.	-	-	125
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds.	-	-	18
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance.	-	-	-
(h) Houses overcrowded.	-	-	7

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis).	-	-	19
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis.	-	-	8
Privies converted to water closets.	-	-	11
Privies converted to earth closets.	-	-	-
Plans for new houses passed.	-	-	5
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses.	-	-	-
Houses connected to public water supply.	-	-	6
Repairs to public pumps and wells.	-	-	-
New public wells.	-	-	-
Private wells re-constructed or improved.	-	-	-
Houses connected to public sewerage.	-	-	-
Lengths of new sewers laid.	-	-	6
Lengths of new water mains laid.	-	-	-

(Sd.) R. LEWIS PRICE,  
Inspector.

May 17th 1926.



INSPECTION OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS for the  
 YEAR ended 31st December, 1925, in the Dawley Urban  
 Sanitary District.

Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register.		36
Number of premises - cowsheds.	-	30
dairies.	-	-
milkshops.	-	6
Number of inspections.	-	60
Defects found (1) in cowsheds:		
(a) floor or cubic space.		-
(b) ventilation.	-	1
(c) lighting.	-	1
(d) structure of floor.	-	1
(e) drainage.	-	1
(f) cleanliness.	-	1
(2) in surroundings of cowsheds.		-
(3) in sanitary condition of drains.		-
(4) in sanitary condition of milkshops.		-
(5) in water supply.	-	-
Number of notices - verbal and written.	-	70
Number of these notices complied with	-	70
Number of defects found and not yet remedied.		-

(Sd.)           R. LEWIS PRICE

Sanitary Inspector.

May 17th 1926.

